(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Research on drugs

2211. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the study conducted by the Kerala Sastra Parishad as reported in the Financial Express dated 26th July, 1985 the multinationals have been sabotaging innovations in the Indian Pharmaceuticals industry and that research in many areas of essential drugs could not be carried out because of the opposition from multinational drug companies; and

(b) if so, what are the areas in which there has been constant struggle between the technology imported by the multinational companies and that developed by the Indian firms and what encouragement has been given by the Government to develop indigenous technology?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) The specific instances of 'Indian innovations a victim of Sabotage by multinational corporations" referred to in the report of the Kerala Sastra Parishad refer mostly to the period prior to 1978 Drug Policy. The 1978 Drug Policy has earmarked specifically the areas for FERA drug companies. The latter are permitted to produce only drugs not reserved for the public sector or the Indian sector and that too from the basic stage and only if the process involves high technology.

For encouraging development of indigenous technology for the production of drugs and pharmaceuticals, certain incentives are being offered, e.g.:

(i) delicensing with the approval of Min. of Science & Technology;

(ii) liberalised treatment in import policy for recognised R&D laboratories;

(iii) price decontrol on bulk drug developed for the first time through indigenous R&D.

Change in the basic raw material for manufacture of vaccine carriers

2212. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change the basic raw material for the manufacture of vaccine carriers from Polystyrene (commonly known as Thercomole) to Polyurethane;

(b) whether Government have taken into consideration the composition of Polyurethane which when burnt emits dangerous MIC gas;

(c) how and in what manner Government find Polyurethane better than Polystyrene—Property-wise and price-wise; and

(d) what would be the approximate requirement of Thermocole Boxes during 1985-86 and 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (d) Information, to the extent possible, would be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Excess Gypsum of FACT

2213. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited is stocking Gypsum in excess;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for proper (i) storing of